

## Accessibility coordinator retires after 34 years

**SAMANTHA COLLISON**  
Campus News Editor I @SammieCollison

Bustling with family, faculty and staff, the friends of retiring Equity Coordinator Pat Wyatt filled the J.W. Jones Student Union Living Room Feb. 28 to give goodbyes — some tearful, some joyful for the future — to someone who touched every corner of campus.

Wyatt has worked at Northwest for 34 years, but in total, she's been at the University most of her adult life.

Wyatt received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Northwest and began working in the B.D. Owens Library as a reference specialist in 1984. She said she worked her way up the chain at the library, acting as a library assistant, manager at the Proctoring Center and later an assistant librarian.

Through her work at the Proctoring Center, her focus shifted to help-

ing students with disabilities and she moved out of the library, becoming the accessibility coordinator.

"In equity, working with the students to help them be more successful is really the reason I loved my job and what made it hard to leave," Wyatt said.

Director of Northwest Online and the Learning and Teaching Center Darla Runyon, who has known Wyatt the entirety of her 22 years at Northwest, said her caring nature is what propelled her into the equity coordinator position.

"Where she's at right now, she can make a huge impact, and she has made a huge impact," Runyon said. "It's how much she works with them. She's always one-on-one and students need that personal attention."

SEE WYATT | A4



MADI GLASS | NW MISSOURIAN  
Pat Wyatt, coordinator of accessibility, socializes with guests at her retirement party Friday Feb. 28. Wyatt is retiring after working at Northwest for 34 years in various positions.

## \$16,000 appropriated

### Student Senate funds University improvements

**MADELINE MAPES**  
News Reporter I @MadelineDMapes

Student Senate appropriated \$16,000 to two separate University improvement projects on Feb. 25.

Representatives from the Student Engagement Center and Residence Hall Association asked for funds to aid in their projects to improve different areas on campus. The Student Engagement Center asked for \$10,000 to update the Student Engagement Center. Residence Hall Association asked for \$6,000 to set up the first bus shelter on campus for students to use when waiting for the Safe Ride Home shuttle.

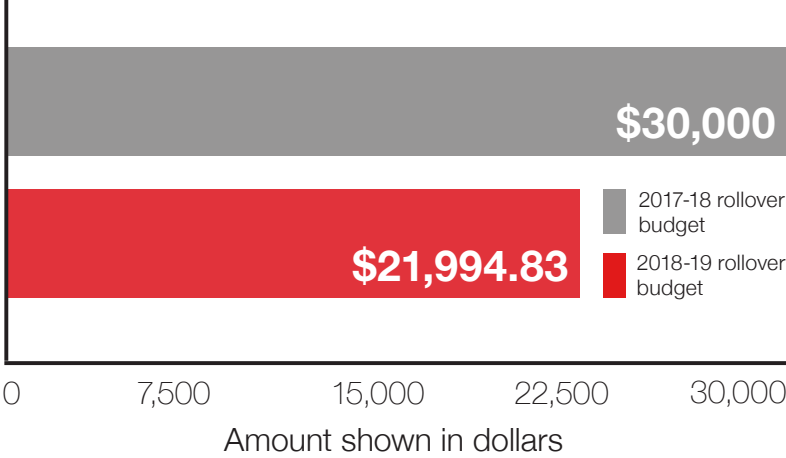
Director of Diversity and Inclusion Justin Mallett came to Student Senate at the Feb. 25 meeting and asked for \$10,000 to improve the Student Engagement Center that he said is outdated and does not match the school's branding.

"Some of the things we are also looking to do as well is to try and make it more inviting for everybody," Mallett said.

Mallett provided a breakdown of where the money collected from Student Senate and other groups on campus would be distributed in the Student Engagement Center.

Mallett said the Office of Student Involvement has \$50,000 dedicated to upgrading the area. The Office of Diversity and Inclusion will be put-

### Student Senate rollover budget since passage of co-curricular fee



Amount shown in dollars

# .50¢

Co-curricular fee has been .50 cents per credit hour since introduced in 2017

SOURCE: NORTHWEST STUDENT SENATE

AJ BRADBURY | NW MISSOURIAN

ting in \$10,000 as well.

Mallett said if Student Senate were to vote no, and not appropriate the \$10,000 to upgrade the Student Engagement Center, the Office of Student

Involvement was still going to try and make changes to the Student Engagement Center to the best of their ability.

"We may just have to cut some things ... in order to pull this off,"

Mallett said.

Mallett said there is a lot of unutilized space or space that is not being used to its full extent that could be changed so that it is as functional and welcoming as it can be.

Another addition Mallett said was that the Student Engagement Center would like to bring in white board tables for students who come in and do their homework.

Aaron Gines, a representative from Residence Hall Association came up after Mallett and asked Student Senate to appropriate \$6,000 to go towards the construction of bus shelters on campus for students.

Gines said the bus shelters will be for students who can't drive and live on campus to use while they wait for Safe Ride to pick them up.

Gines said last year RHA discovered three problems: residential students were not utilizing Safe Ride as much as they could to get around town, students did have a place to wait for their Safe Ride, and there was no way for any organization to advertise outside of the doors of the buildings on campus.

"People who were using the service were having to wait outside, so when their ride was on the way, they were having to wait in the rain, having to wait in the snow," Gines said.

SEE SENATE | A4

## Sheriff speaks at sorority-hosted memorial week

**KENDRICK CALFEE**  
Community News Editor I @KoalaCalfree

Nodaway County Sheriff Randy Strong presented an overview of the first murder case he investigated in Maryville.

Strong spoke at the Charles Johnson Theater for the beginning of Karen Hawkins Memorial Week March 2, discussing details and information of the case that led to Hawkins' death.

Strong praised Sigma Sigma Sigma for annually holding the memorial week to keep Hawkins' memory alive. After Strong presented, Christen Armstrong, a University of Central Missouri Sigma Sigma Sigma alumna, spoke about her experience with sexual assault.

In the Spring of 1995, Dennis Lee Jones, a Maryville resident assaulted and killed Hawkins, a Northwest student and Sigma Sigma Sig-

ma member. Jones and Hawkins knew each other from high school.

Maryville Public Safety promptly got Jones to confess to the crime, whereupon he led the authorities to several crime scenes. Jones hanged himself in his holding cell of the Nodaway County Jail before he could go to trial.

An emotional night for some, sniffles and teary eyes consumed the crowd of Northwest students, faculty and community members who listened to first-person accounts of the trauma.

Strong, standing on the stage of the CJT, spoke in a low shaky voice and said his experience working the Hawkins case spurred a realization of the unfortunate commonality of sexual assault.

"The tragedy of this case is not only did he take Karen's (Haw-

kins) life. ... He hurt those that were close to her," Strong said. "It touched Karen's family and friends ... and his family, who were good people on all accounts."

The Hawkins Memorial Week is held annually by Northwest Sigma Sigma Sigma to remember her name and raise awareness of sexual assault and violence.

The week of events has grown over the years since Hawkins' death to include speeches by those involved in investigating the case, as well as games, silent walks and self defense classes.

Junior Maya Rupard said the week of March 2-5, known as "break the silence, stop the violence," has touched members of the sorority for years.

SEE HAWKINS | A4

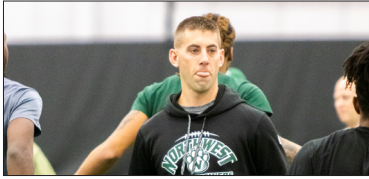


DAKOTA WEAVER | NW MISSOURIAN  
Officer Randy Strong talks to members of Sigma Sigma Sigma as they kick off the start of Karen Hawkins Memorial Week. Hawkins was a Northwest student who was murdered in March 1995.

### IN THE NEWS

#### A2 'Cat lady'

Maryville cat rescuer expands operation into new building.



### IN ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

#### A7 Been here before

Joel Osborn isn't a stranger to charting a path forward through adversity.

### IN SPORTS

#### A12 One and not done

Northwest women's basketball upsets Central Oklahoma in Day 1 of the MIAA tournament.



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# City cat rescuer moves into new building

**ASHLEY LOSSON**  
Missourian Reporter | @themissourian

As a person walks across the painted paw print in front of the door and enters the soon-to-be cat-filled building, they are greeted by a friendly smile and a passionate cat lover.

Jami Hull was nicknamed Maryville’s cat lady due to her love of cats and big heart to save them. Hull is a certified cat behaviorist, a person who studies the psychology of cats. She has been relying on a small space in the corner of her room to house feral cats since 2018 and is ready to move to a larger space located at 24005 Business Highway 71.

“It will definitely be nice to have just our few cats,” Hull said.

Before having the building, Hull was relying solely on foster families to come through and volunteer to get the cats out of her house. For these families, Hull was providing all of the needs for the cats: food, litter and veterinary checkups. This was costing Hull around \$3,000 a month.

“We were providing food for each individual foster family, so that adds up very quickly, along with litter and supplies,” Hull said.

According to Walmart’s website, a 16 pound bag of cat food costs about \$10, and Hull was providing this to at least seven families

at a time. With the cats being in the same location, Hull will be able to buy cat food and litter in bulk, saving her money in the long run.

With this new building, Hull said that the shelter will need at least \$800 a month to stay running, significantly less than the \$3,000 before.

Hull also runs the Trap-Neuter-Release Facebook page for Maryville, which is where she posts information about fundraisers to help raise money to keep the shelter running. A TNR is responsible for helping maintain feral cat populations.

According to Neighborhood Cats, TNRs are the most humane way to control a feral cat population. A colony of cats is taken to a veterinary clinic where they are spayed or neutered, given their shots and treated for diseases. After this, they are released back where they were originally found.

Hull has helped with multiple cat colonies in Maryville, one of them being the Joy Wok colony.

“We got contacted about Joy Wok and there were about 18 cats out there, and what we did was we trapped them, we neutered them, fixed them up, and then we put them back,” Hull said.

Now that Hull has a bigger space to house these cats, she plans to do

more rescuing as opposed to releasing.

Hull’s love for cats began when she was young.

“My first childhood cat was a stray, so that kind of just started it,” Hull said.

Since then, Hull’s passion to help give feral cats a better life has only grown.

“Whenever I went to look into who was actually helping the feral and strays, there wasn’t anybody,” Hull said. “So I just decided to be that person.”

Hull said she is excited to be starting a shelter for cats as opposed to a TNR or foster system. Hull’s plans for the small building are to make it homey with a front desk as you walk in, an adoption area to the back and a playroom off to the side.

While in her house, Hull has helped save over 500 cats.

“Since we’ve started last December we are at 536,” Hull said.

Hull hopes that with this building the number of rescued cats will continue to go up.

Hull hopes to have the shelter completed by March 10. Volunteers are welcome to come and help play with and take care of the cats.

Donations can be made and events can be found on the T-N-R Maryville Facebook page.



ABIGAYLE RUSH | NW MISSOURIAN  
**Jami Hull runs a Trap-Neuter-Release operation in Maryville from her home. Her recent purchase of a building will help her maintain the feral cat population.**

# Nodaway County sheriff announces bid for reelection

**KENDRICK CALFEE**  
Community News Editor | @KoalaCalfree

Nodaway County Sheriff Randy Strong officially announced his bid for reelection Feb. 24.

After having served in office for a four-year term, Strong will run against his 2016 opponent Darren White once again for the position in November. The election, coinciding with the national presidential election, will look similar to the former competitive race Maryville and its surrounding communities saw from the two candidates just four years ago.

Strong will run as a Republican with a focus on keeping the office investigation-based and pushing for further victim advocacy in the county.

White will run as a democrat promoting accessibility to the public and transparency as major candidate platforms.

Strong said his time as sheriff has been focused on investigation-related training for the Sheriff’s Office staff, and he said he is confident his work has benefited the county.

“It has been my pleasure to have served you these past three years,” Strong said. “I am humbled by the support I have received from our great and diverse community.”

Strong has traveled a long road of public servitude that amounted to 41 years in law enforcement before being elected Nodaway County Sheriff.

In 1974 Strong enrolled at Northwest as an art major. He lat-

er realized he wanted to do something more than art and got his first job with Maryville Public Safety in 1979.

In 1992 he was promoted to detective, and during his time as detective, he was placed on Northwest Missouri Major Case Squad working homicides. Strong recently brought back the major case squad, a group that dissolved after his retirement from public safety.

Today, the major case squad is assigned special cases that are in need of specialized investigations techniques.

“I partnered with narcotics units on a county, state and federal level to target dealers that poison our communities,” Strong said in his press release announcement.

Strong received special deputization as U.S. Marshal twice, and

through that honor was assigned a federal case agent in the murder of a federal drug witness. His second assignment as U.S. Marshal was his placement on the Nitro Task Force targeting armed drug traffickers.

In 2012, he retired from the Maryville Public Safety and became investigations manager for the Missouri inspector general.

Strong took office as Nodaway County Sheriff Jan. 1, 2017. During his time as sheriff, Strong won several awards, including an award from the U.S. Attorney’s Office for work on United States v. Emery, where the murder of a federal witness was tried.

Strong also worked on the board of rescue for a kidnapped infant named Victoria Jo Stinnent that received national attention, where a

23-year-old pregnant woman Bobby Jo Stinnent was found dead in her home. Strong helped investigate and bring to court the accused Lisa M. Montgomery, who murdered Bobby Jo Stinnent and cut Victoria Jo Stinnent out of her womb. Montgomery is the only woman on death row in federal prison.

Strong’s investigative works are shown in five documentary movies and are written about in three true crime books.

Strong is a part of the sexual assault response team at Northwest, where he connects with victim advocates from the Children and Family Center and investigates when students wish to press charges.

**FULL STORY ONLINE:  
NWMISSOURINEWS.COM**

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A photograph of a person in a red and white donkey mascot costume. The mascot is wearing a red jacket with "UCM" on the sleeve, blue jeans, and red sneakers. It is standing on a paved path with trees and a building in the background.

The logo of the University of Central Missouri, featuring a shield with a building and the year 1871.

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MARTINA PASCUZZO | NW MISSOURIAN

Junior James Palmer (left) and senior Ryan Lanman (right) were both well-prepared for the debate. While one of them was voicing out their opinion the other one was taking down notes or pulling up articles online to follow their discussion on Feb. 27.

# Breaking barriers

Immigration debate explores nuance in middle ground

MADELINE MAPES  
News Reporter | @MadelineDMapes

The usually divisive issue of immigration led to a relatively tame Student Senate debate Feb. 27.

Junior James Palmer and senior Ryan Lanman disputed immigration policies at the Student Senate debate in the J.W. Jones Student Union Ballroom. Both students discussed their sides of the topic but also agreed on several issues.

Palmer and Lanman were selected to be the debaters by submitting an application and participating in an interview with Inclusion Chair sophomore Joseph Etheridge and Inclusion Vice Chair junior Jenni Gutierrez who hosted the February debate.

The fundamental question in the debate was, “To what extent should immigration be regulated in the United States?”

Palmer leaned toward reformed and less strict policies, while Lanman debated for more strict policies.

Lanman began the debate by giving his general views on immigration and what ideas support those views.

“We are a nation of immigrants. We are also a nation of citizens and laws too. So, there’s a balance there that we have to achieve,” Lanman said. Palmer then gave his views on immigration.

“I think we’re (the U.S.) acting like we shouldn’t be looked at as a beacon of hope for refugees. ... I believe that we make it too tedious for people from other countries to come to America,” Palmer said.

Lanman and Palmer both came to the debate prepared. Palmer used a laptop to aid him in his debate. Palmer would look up statistics while in the middle of the debate to help support his answers even more than the information he had gathered prior to the event.

Lanman used no devices to aid him throughout the debate.

Despite being prepared to argue their side, Palmer and Lanman agreed on several issues throughout the debate, such as the notion that people born on U.S. soil should be considered citizens, whether their parents were born in the U.S. or not.

Palmer and Lanman both agreed that birth tourism is regulated to the extent that it can be regulated.

This question was posed by an audience member through Sli.do, which is an interactive polling web app.

Palmer and Lanman also agreed immigration has not been an important topic during the 2020 presidential elections.

Lanman said he thought the issue had been put off by Congress for several years now and was not going to be an important topic in this year’s election.

“I agree. I think that the time for the immigration discussion has kind of passed, unfortunately on a national level for now,” Palmer said.

Palmer and Lanman also agreed that the national government should be handling immigration policies rather than the states.

The issues Lanman and Palmer did not agree on led to civil discussions and rebuttals throughout the debate.

One point Palmer made was people should not be in cages, no matter if they are an illegal immigrant or not.

Lanman came back and said the U.S. does not lock people in cages

who take the legal route to coming to the U.S. Lanman said people who try to circumvent the process are the ones who are imprisoned.

According to the American Immigration Council website, a refugee is a person who is unwilling or unable to return to their home country, and they can not obtain protection in that country because of past persecution or a well-founded fear of being persecuted in the future “on account of race, religion nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.”

According to the United States Department of Homeland Security, illegal immigration is, “all foreign-born non-citizens who are not legal residents.”

“I definitely agree that maybe hysteria goes both ways on an issue such as this,” Palmer said.

The debate had lower attendance than the last two with 26 students attending. Some students thought that the debate went well.

“I thought it was really good. I thought they debated topics that were relevant,” senior Zach Hougland said.

According to an article by The Atlantic, immigration is such a divisive issue because it is not monolithic.

There are many aspects to immigration that have to be addressed and not just one question will answer the issues surrounding immigration.

According to an article from the U.S. News website, President Donald Trump has been enforcing immigration policies.

In August 2019, the Trump Administration announced a new rule that lifted restrictions on how long children illegal immigrant children can be detained by the U.S. government.

Democratic candidates Joe Biden, Michael Bloomberg and Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) are all seeking to create policies that would give most illegal immigrants citizenship and do not discriminate against illegal border crossing.

Biden plans to look at the root causes of immigrants fleeing their home countries. Sanders looks to expand DACA and restructuring ICE.

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# POLICE BLOTTERS

for the week of March 5

## Northwest Missouri State University Police Department

Feb. 22

There was a closed investigation for a liquor law violation at South Complex.

An arrest warrant was issued to **Jordan E. Crowder**, 22, of Louisburg, Kansas, at Lot 42.

There was a closed investigation for a liquor law violation at Perrin Hall.

Feb. 23

There was a closed investigation for a liquor law violation at Perrin Hall.

A summons was issued to **Kevin C. Kerins**, 19, and **Evan C. Hurley**, 18, for possession of marijuana at Hudson Hall.

Feb. 27

There was a closed investigation for a liquor law violation at College Park Drive.

Feb. 29

There was a closed investigation for a liquor law violation at Perrin Hall.

There was a closed investigation for a liquor law violation at Perrin Hall.

March 3

A summons was issued to **Sidney M. Breyfogle**, 19, for possession of a controlled substance at Millikan Hall.

## Maryville Department of Public Safety

Jan. 16

There is an ongoing investigation for exploitation of the elderly on the 200 block of East Third Street.

Feb. 19

There is an ongoing investigation for larceny on the 100 block of West Sixth Street.

Feb. 20

A summons was issued to **Dylan N. Mildfeldt**, 20, of Ravenwood, Missouri, for disorderly conduct on the 800 block of North Country Club Road.

Feb. 21

A summons was issued to **Madison A. Norton**, 19, of Savannah, Missouri, for minor in possession on the 28000 block of U.S. Highway 71.

Feb. 23

There is an ongoing investigation for stalking on the 1200 block of West 16th Street.

Feb. 24

A summons was issued to **Marina Cruz-Espino**, 18, for possession of a fake I.D. on the 1500 block of North Main Street.

A summons was issued to **Issiaha M. Keegel**, 23, of St. Joseph, Missouri, for wanted on warrant and failure to appear on the 400 block of North Market Street.

A summons was issued to **Lincoln T. Pope**, 18, of Pickering, Missouri, for minor in possession and failure to maintain financial responsibility on the 100 block of South Mattie Street.

A summons was issued to **Torey J. Wiengrad**, 27, for wanted on warrant and failure to appear on the 400 block of North Market Street.

Feb. 25

A summons was issued to **Rhoit Bhatta**, 21, for no valid driver's license on the 100 block of West 16th Street.

A summons was issued to **Violet C. Johnston**, 28, for wanted on warrant and failure to appear on the 400 block of North Market Street.

Feb. 28

A summons was issued to **Khalil A. Stone**, 24, for wanted on warrant and failure to appear on the 400 block of North Market Street.

Feb. 29

A summons was issued to **Shay V. Buyas**, 42, for driving while suspended on the 100 block of East Edwards Street.

A summons was issued to **Garrett R. Pistole**, 21, for driving while intoxicated and careless and imprudent driving on the 100 block of West Seventh Street.

A summons was issued to **Kendall S. Harkrider**, 17, for careless and imprudent driving on the 1700 block of South Main Street.



DAKOTA WEAVER | NW MISSOURIAN

Missouri’s wind turbines have provided 1.29% of the states electricity. In August last year, Tenaska Clear Creek Energy Center began bringing in pieces to newer wind turbines. When completed will embrace from 100-120 new turbines.

# Hype for wind farms winding down in northwest Missouri

KENDRICK CALFEE  
Community News Editor | @KoalaCalfée

With three wind farms continuing to build and operate on the outskirts of Maryville, citizens who bought into the idea of clean energy are now asking if their electric bills will reflect the county’s efforts toward sustainable energy.

Three wind farm projects have been approved in Nodaway and Atchison County. Tenaska Clear Creek Energy Center and White Cloud Wind Project will operate in Nodaway County, while Avangrid Renewables operates in Atchison. As construction heads toward finalization at Tenaska, homeowners in the area are asking when the beneficial effects of clean energy will reflect in their monthly electric bill.

Presiding Commissioner Bill Walker said he has heard such concerns from the community.

“There hasn’t been much income yet because they (Tenaska) are not in production,” Walker said. “So, there has been no revenue tax-wise yet, but some money is being brought in from workers, new jobs and contractors.”

Walker said he is unsure how local electric bills will be affected because the distribution of energy from Tenaska is left up to the Associated Electric Cooperative Inc. in Springfield, Missouri, which will purchase the energy once the wind farm is in production.

“They are not 100% done yet,” Walker said. “There is no official date set, but sometime in Summer 2020 they plan on being in full operation.”

When the whole project is complete, Tenaska’s 242-megawatt Clear Creek Energy Center will provide renewable power for AECI, which will distribute the energy to regional cooperatives at the company’s discretion.

AECI provides power to six regional cooperatives working out of localities. Near Maryville, the power suppliers that could potentially see benefits provided by Tenaska are the Northwest Electric Power Coopera-

tive Inc. of Cameron, Missouri, and United Electric.

Locals concerned about their electric bills could see a difference once the wind farms are in consistent operation, at which time actual tax revenue for the county can also be recorded.

Walker said Tenaska is projected to bring in \$1.4 million in tax revenue each year to Nodaway County, but the exact number will be recorded when the farm begins to produce energy.

“They (Tenaska) are taxed on how many megawatts they actually produce,” Walker said. “The \$1.4 million is not a completely accurate figure, so we won’t know until they are in production and we know what they will be bringing in.”

The \$1.4 million figure is based on the predicted amount of energy the wind farm can produce, which is at 242 megawatts. However, due to the unpredictability of wind availability, the farm may not produce this amount of energy consistently.

According to the Renewable Resources Coalition, wind energy is beneficial because it is renewable and sustainable, produces very few greenhouse emissions, there are no fuel components, farms are space-efficient, they have low operating costs, and they have potential for residential use of the energy generated.

However, there are costs associated with wind energy and the farms that house the turbines. The RRC also states that detriments of wind energy include: wind is unpredictable, noise pollution is common, construction of turbines poses environmental impacts on wildlife, and the overall appearance of wind farms are not appealing.

Walker said he has heard some of these detrimental concerns from citizens and landowners.

“On the negative side of things, they (the wind turbines) put out a lot of noise,” Walker said. “Some people don’t like the flashing lights or the looks of them over the landscape.”

Walker also said there were com-

plaints about roads in spring of 2019, when trucks delivered turbine wings and began construction.

Several roads in the county had to be reworked and improved, but some roads were tended to faster than others. The priority for road improvements was based on how frequent they were traveled on, such as the focus of redoing a stretch of Highway 71 before improving the gravel roads Tenaska used. This left some farmers in a bind with poor road conditions during working hours.

Walker said part of the issue was the amount of rain the county saw in the spring months.

Tenaska worked with local contractors and road crews to modify and improve roads that were damaged, and are looking ahead to improve other roads before traveling on them.

“Everything has went pretty good since last spring,” Walker said. “Heavy trucks made road issues, but they handled it smoothly.”

Though there have been detriments to roads and overall aesthetics at the expense of landowners, Walker said the community as a whole seems to be welcoming of the company.

Tenaska has 170 land lease agreements with landowners in the county, working with more than 31,000 acres of land.

Clear Creek Energy Center and its construction has brought jobs to the community, hiring 50 craft workers directly from the area and holding approximately \$30 million in contracts to regional businesses, such as Byron Clark Construction, Foley Equipment, Pine Valley Contracting, United Rentals, Porter Trash Service and numerous others.

At a celebration of the construction Clear Creek in September 2019, Tenaska CEO and Vice Chairman of Clear Creek Jerry Crouse said the company will do what it can to be a good neighbor to the community.

“We are proud to be a part of Northwest Missouri and we plan to be here a long time,” Crouse said.

## WYATT CONTINUED FROM A1

Wyatt said the most important part of her job is making sure students know what they are doing at Northwest is important and being a support in their success.

The biggest challenge, she said, is the stigma surrounding disability.

“They don’t want to face up to that (having a disability), but it’s not really a bad thing. It just means there’s a barrier they have to get past, and that’s what we’re here to

help them do,” Wyatt said.

Runyon said every time she thinks about Wyatt, it’s about how much she cares about people. She said her work ethic, her personality and her integrity are what gives her the reputation she has with students and employees.

“She cares so much that she probably overworks herself,” Runyon said. “She puts in that extra mile because she cares.”

Wyatt’s stepdaughter’s mother Carol Heflin said Wyatt goes above and beyond, not just in a professional capacity but also working

with Northwest Dance Company and as a parent.

“From being with my daughter and coming into her family later on, she is open arms with all of us. I don’t think it really matters if you’re a student, a parent or another family member, Pat (Wyatt)’s just going to meet you with open arms. That’s the kind of person she is,” Heflin said.

Wyatt received the staff award at the 2019 Influential Women of Northwest awards, according to a University news release.

“Without her assistant and ded-

## HAWKINS CONTINUED FROM A1

“The main thing we get out of it is encouragement,” Rupard said. “Having a connection and hearing new stories every year and hearing about Karen (Hawkins) reminds me how grateful I am to have all these people in my life.”

Rupard also said she has heard different kinds of speeches every year Sigma Sigma Sigma holds the memorial week, getting different perspectives and accounts from people who had first-hand experience with sexual assault.

When UCM alumna Armstrong shared her vivid experience with

two different sexual assaults, a couple members of the sorority were so overcome with emotion that they momentarily left. Telling her story of working through emotional pain and health issues, Armstrong reiterated to her audience that victims, though they often feel so, are not alone.

Armstrong said she has been fighting the trauma of the two events her whole life, and said the emotional implications of sexual assault are not talked about as much as they should be.

“The reason people don’t report (sexual assault) is for a variety of reasons,” Armstrong said. “One of them could be they are afraid they aren’t going to be believed because

colder parts of the year so students have a covered, warm place to wait.

Gines said the shelters could also be used for advertising across campus. Students and organizations can hang posters and flyers to ad-

it’s going to come down to he said, she said. And for years people would show up and they weren’t believed.”

Speaking briefly toward the effects of the #MeToo movement, Armstrong said victims are now put in a position that they can feel support like never before.

“For you girls to be doing this ... since 1995 ... you should be very proud to be part of it,” Armstrong said. “It is a conversation that needs to continue.”

Alumni and Chapter Advisor for Sigma Sigma Sigma P.J. Smith, a friend of Armstrong, said the memorial week speaks toward the ability of members to be self aware and feel supported.

vertise events and other activities on campus.

Gines said RHA plans to construct one bus shelter this year and add a new one every year. The first bus shelter will be at the most com-

ication, many students and faculty would be on their own to navigate a challenging learning environment,” one of her nominators said.

Runyon said Wyatt has built up her position in a way that will ease the transition for whoever fills her shoes.

Heflin said the next chapter in Wyatt’s life will be focused on family, but she said Wyatt has worked hard for so long that she will find ways to stay busy and keep helping people.

Tearfully, Wyatt said she hopes her legacy at Northwest is students knowing that they are always accepted, no matter their ability.

“There is nothing shameful about having a professional help you take care of your soul,” Smith said.

The memorial week included two additional events, with a photo opportunity for organizations Wednesday called “Cheesin’ for Karen,” and a silent memorial walk 7:30 p.m. March 5 at the Memorial Bell Tower.

*There are free local and national resources for victims of sexual assault and violence.*

*The Children and Family Center of Nodaway County have a 24-hour hotline at 660-562-2320, and the national hotline for sexual assault is 1-800-656-4673.*

monly used Safe Ride spot on campus, the stop closest to the Forest Village Apartments on Centennial Drive.

Both appropriations passed unanimously.



Students need a ‘Midterms Week’

NATHAN ENGLISH  
Opinion Editor  
@ThananEnglish



Midterms suck. These tests or projects are smack dab in the middle of the semester — except when they decide not to be for some reason. They are worth just as much as a final and they don’t get a whole week devoted to them. Finals week is a five-day period focused solely on helping students do their best on huge tests in each class, and mid-terms deserve the same treatment.

The issue with midterms is all the crap that surrounds them. It seems inevitable that multiple papers and projects are due midterm week. I don’t think professors are sitting in dark rooms smoking cigars and designing class schedules to inflict the most pain on students, but it feels like that at times.

As previously mentioned, mid-terms often have the same weight in terms of grades as finals. This means that academically the tests are just as valuable as their book-ending counterparts. Oftentimes, the same amount of studying and attention needs to be placed into midterms as finals and with the current schedule of midterm week, it is difficult for that to happen for many students.

Midterms also fall at a more busy time for most students than finals week. Hell week is the week before finals, that’s the week everyone, including my grandmother, assigns extra work to squeeze every last measly point in the grade book to either bolster or wreck grades before finals. It feels like the final push prior to finals, and after that, it’s time to just focus on finals, and then comes (temporary) freedom from school.

Midterms are hell week for many people because of the things surrounding the all-important exams. Students shouldn’t be expected to juggle all classwork and tests with the same weight if the precedent has already been set of giving students rest during finals week. Midterms can also fall on important weeks for extracurriculars (no, not darty season) as it did in the fall of 2018 when it was the same week as Homecoming.

FULL STORY ONLINE:  
NWMISSOURINEWS.COM



CHRIS YOUNG | NW MISSOURIAN

OUR VIEW:  
Student Senate spending should be student-focused

A governing body having excess funds when the cost of going to college has never been higher is unfair to students and shouldn’t continue. The 97th Student Senate should reconsider its predecessor’s decision to hoard its wealth.

At the very least, it should reevaluate its priorities with appropriations and make sure its funds go to bettering the student experience, not helping the University recruit more students.

While the Wellness Fee is set to rise by \$4.65 per credit hour and student wages are frozen in spite of a rising state minimum wage, Student Senate is sitting pretty with more money than it can spend.

Rather than decreasing its budget when it had the chance in March 2019, the governing body designed to represent student interests decided instead to contribute \$10,000 to help the University make improvements to the Student Engagement Center.

Besides the fact that Student Senate appropriations should always go to student organizations rather than employees representing the University, the appropriation from Student Senate isn’t even necessary for the project to go forward.

The Office of Student Involvement is contributing \$60,000 to the project, and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion is contributing \$10,000.

When proposing the appropriation, Associate Provost of Diversity and Inclusion Justin Mallett said while some sacrifices would have to be made without 13% of the total budget if Student Senate had not appropriated the funds, the project could have been accomplished.

While the SEC is the home of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and a hangout spot

for some students, it’s also a featured stop on campus tours and the home of the offices of two of Student Senate’s three advisers.

A year ago, Student Senate’s ad hoc fees committee proposed lowering the co-curricular fee, which gives Student Senate its budget, by \$0.10 per credit hour. This decrease would have shaved around \$15,000 off of the budget.

This decrease was proposed because of the unspent \$30,000 that rolled over from the 2017-18 school year to the 2018-19 school year. Junior Class Representative Madi Cobb said during the 2019 fees discussion that when she was chair of the Student Affairs Committee, she felt pressured to spend all the money in the budget.

“Sometimes I felt I was blowing money just to spend it,” Cobb said.

At the time, the senators who voted in favor of maintaining the fee said Student Senate could be doing more with its budget and decreasing it would only stunt its growth.

But rather than offering more appropriations to student organizations or proactively finding ways to use the money to directly benefit students, the funds have sat around, waiting for University employees to ask Student Senate for help with building upgrades.

In fairness, Student Senate also appropriated \$6,000 to build a bus shelter at a Safe Ride Home shuttle stop, but before that, the roll-over funds were used for new carpet and paint in the J.W. Jones Student Union (\$15,000) and cosmetic upgrades to the International Flag Plaza (\$3,356.29).

Making the University look better shouldn’t be Student Senate’s priority; helping students should be.

YOUR VIEW:  
What’s one thing that would be beneficial for Student Senate to spend money on? Why?



“Maybe like outdoor activities for all who are ready to come and participate in. ... I think it would probably be a fun thing for people there ... bring people together.”

- Genet Easton | Junior  
Radiology



“I think that Student Senate should spend their money on organizations that help promote inclusion among students and help to integrate the interactions between students and the faculty and staff.”

-Kyla Streeter | Sophomore  
Emergency and Disaster  
Management



“They should divvy up some of the extra money to the different majors, especially some of the smaller ones that don’t necessarily get as much funding.”

-Lawrence Link | Freshman  
Geology, Emergency Disaster  
Management Double Major

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By MetroCreative

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HOROSCOPE

By MetroCreative

**ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20**  
Hobbies can be a great distraction from your responsibilities, Aries. But this week you need to get back to business, or you may fall behind.

**TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21**  
Taurus, change is in the air and you are excited about all the new prospects that lie ahead. The most difficult decisions will be centered on what you’re going to do.

**GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21**  
Nurturing is a part of your nature, Gemini. This week you may discover you are spending a lot of time lavishing attention on others at your expense. Find a healthy balance.

**CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22**  
Cancer, your social and business calendar is full for the next several weeks. Even though you enjoy being busy, you may need a break to avoid burnout.

**LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23**  
It will be another fortuitous week for your finances, Leo. All of your financial ducks are in a row, and you can take some time off from micromanaging your accounts.

**VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22**  
Virgo, you may want to show others a new side of you over the course of the next few days. You’re often conservative, but you might want to let loose a little bit and be adventurous.

**LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23**  
You may receive a few offers this week that seem too good to be true, Libra. Trust your instincts as you navigate through all of these opportunities to find the best options.

**SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22**  
Scorpio, over the course of the next few days you’ll get an idea of how many people rely on you. When you are out of commission, things may come to a halt.

**SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21**  
People are drawn to your warmth and good nature, Sagittarius. That is why you are never short on friends or left with nothing to do. This week is no different.

**CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20**  
Changes that you have been hoping will occur will finally see the light of day, Capricorn. The effects will be subtle at first and then build as they go.

**AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18**  
Aquarius, now is your opportunity to take care of yourself. You have been freed of some responsibilities and are able to focus on small changes that can add up to something big.

**PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20**  
Pisces, when things get a tad stressful this week, remember that physical activity can calm you down. Take a walk or hit the gym.

Spring broke



CHRIS YOUNG | NW MISSOURIAN

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Yields Manila hemp
- 6. A type of gin
- 10. Japanese ankle sock
- 14. Swiss city
- 15. Applied to
- 17. Achievements
- 19. Japanese title
- 20. Possesses
- 21. Belgian city
- 22. Child
- 23. Great delight
- 24. Petty quarrel
- 26. Gathered
- 29. Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
- 31. Path
- 32. Legendary hoops coach Riley
- 34. A citizen of Denmark
- 35. Flat
- 37. Upper-class young women
- 38. Payment (abbr.)
- 39. Distort
- 40. Affirmative! (slang)
- 41. One who has a child
- 43. Without
- 45. Workplace safety agency
- 46. Political action committee
- 47. Period of plant and animal life
- 49. Swiss river
- 50. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- 53. State of being kept secret
- 57. Hobbies
- 58. One-time Korean ruler
- 59. Sudden attack
- 60. Born of
- 61. Assists

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Ancient Greek sophist
- 2. Famed composer
- 3. Spore-bearing fungi cells
- 4. Chief executive officer
- 5. Defunct Syrian political party
- 6. Thin wood
- 7. Polynesian garlands
- 8. Fluid replacement (abbr.)

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57											58			
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- 9. Flammable hydrocarbon gas
- 10. Multi-leveled
- 11. Influential diarist
- 12. Gambles
- 13. Many subconsciousnesses
- 16. Current unit
- 18. Illumination unit
- 22. Tantalum
- 23. Steps leading down to a river
- 24. Kids love him
- 25. Before
- 27. Fencing swords
- 28. Mountain range in China
- 29. Payroll company
- 30. A way to pack together
- 31. Business designation
- 33. Thyroid-stimulating hormone (abbr.)
- 35. Forage fish
- 36. Greek temple pillars

- 37. Internet mgmt. company
- 39. Rouse oneself
- 42. In a way, covered
- 43. Elaborate silk garment
- 44. Cooling unit
- 46. Riley and O'Brien are two
- 47. \_\_\_ fide: genuine
- 48. Ancient Incan sun god
- 49. Poker stake
- 50. Trigonometric function
- 51. Interesting tidbit
- 52. Adieus
- 53. U.S. Treasury position
- 54. Midway between east and southeast
- 55. Doctors' group
- 56. Women's \_\_\_ movement



# Joel Osborn has been here before

2004

Graduated from Harlan High School after helping the three major sports teams to state championships in his last two seasons, quarterbacking the Cyclones to a state title in his senior season before attending Northwest.

2008

Graduated from Northwest after coming up short in the NCAA Division II National Championship game four seasons in a row. Osborn is the only player in the program's history to start two national title games at quarterback.

2009

Diagnosed with testicular cancer at 24 years old. Underwent surgery in the week leading up to the 2009 National Championship game where he helped coach Northwest to a win after losing four times as a player.

2010

Got a call from a doctor while on his honeymoon saying he had to undergo chemotherapy. Finished his last round of chemo the week of his 25th birthday before Northwest's 42-0 win over Missouri Western Oct. 2, 2010.

2018

Promoted to co-offensive coordinator after serving as a wide receiver coach. Took over play-calling duties for two seasons, working alongside former co-offensive coordinator Charlie Flohr, who coached Osborn in he mid 2000s.

2020

Stripped of play-calling duties and effectively demoted after Flohr's departure to South Dakota State prompted the hiring of Todd Sturdy, Northwest's new offensive coordinator and play-caller who used to be a DI coordinator.

Joel Osborn, Northwest football's running backs and tight ends coach and the former co-offensive coordinator, is settling in to his new role after the hiring of Todd Sturdy, the team's new offensive playcaller. Osborn has coached at Northwest in some capacity in 2009, when he started as a graduate assistant following the end of his playing career in 2008.

ANDREW WEGLEY  
Managing Editor | @andrewwegley

Most people haven't seen the small scar that sits beneath Joel Osborn's left clavicle, the one he's worn beneath his collarbone for almost a decade now. When they look at his narrow face and overtired green eyes, they don't see the blemish that occupies the space a catheter once did. They don't grapple with the realities of life before and after cancer. They don't face the reminder that Osborn does each morning when he gets out of bed.

Osborn, who serves as the running backs and tight ends coach for Northwest's football program, sees it every day. He was 24 years old when he was first diagnosed with testicular cancer and when he had a tumor removed just weeks before Northwest's 2009 National semifinal game. He was on his honeymoon with his wife, Audrey, when his doctor left a voicemail telling him he had to start chemotherapy. He looks at the scar and remembers.

He remembers the first round of treatment, the one that required a trip to St. Joseph, Missouri, and six consecutive hours of intra-arterial chemotherapy that left the permanent scar in its wake. He remembers having to use the restroom every 15 minutes or so. He remembers spending the day reading books and watching movies with Ben McCollum, Northwest's men's basketball's head coach and Osborn's friend who went with him to his first round of treatment.

"I could tell that there were people in there that were defeated," Osborn said. "But that wasn't me. I wasn't gonna let that happen."

Osborn remembers the gloom of the treatment facility that day, the sense of despair that consumed everyone else in the room. There is something depressing about a room full of people connected only by their dire situation, brought together only by their separate fights for life.

McCollum remembers something different. "From that day, it seemed like there wasn't a thought that this wasn't gonna — he was gonna make it through it and be stronger for it," McCollum said. "It didn't feel like one of those depressing settings for him. Just feeling bad for everybody else was probably more what he felt, would be my guess."

Osborn recounted his fight with cancer from within his top-floor office at the Lamkin Activity Center, sitting near the southern edge of the campus he has called home for more than a decade. But the anecdote tells as much of Osborn as he does of it, the account of his struggle with the disease helping to depict the coach's place in the world he helps occupy.

Sitting at his well-kept desk in his spacious office, Osborn is surrounded by reminders. There are four commemorative footballs on a shelf across from his desk, each celebrating a national championship he was a part of. There's the 2008 Don Black award, the one Osborn earned for his performance in a homecoming win as Northwest's senior quarterback that year. There's a framed jersey from one championship, a framed photo from another. Reminders of success.

But beyond his own office walls, there are more. There's Rich Wright's office, the last one in a row of them down the main corridor at Lamkin reserved for the team's head coach. And a few stops before Osborn's workspace, there's the office door of Todd Sturdy, who was hired to replace former co-offensive coordinator Charlie Flohr and who will take over the play-calling duties from Osborn next season.

At 32 years old, Osborn was the wide receivers coach and offensive play-caller for Northwest, a rising star at the helm of the offense of a storied program. Now, at 34 years old, Osborn has been effectively demoted. In his office chair, he sits firmly in adversity. He is steps away from the office he hopes one day to assume — that of a Division II head coach. And he is steps away from the duties he once held, grappling with the fact that he is no longer the co-offensive coordinator, his career-arc stunted in the only program he has ever known.

"It's very tough," Osborn said. "Yeah, absolutely, it's tough to — you have your ups and your downs."

Osborn isn't new to charting a path through misfortune. He has been here before.

Each move in Osborn's life, it seems, has been one based in sports. He was a passenger in his dad's coaching career growing up, moving twice to greener pastures and better programs before he was 13 years old. Entering middle school in the wake of his family's move to Harlan, Iowa, Osborn was briefly unconvinced. He didn't understand why they'd left the comfort of a powerhouse basketball school into the unknown.



Joel Osborn, the running backs and tight ends coach for Northwest football, got to the office at 8 a.m. Feb. 21 to start reviewing recruitment highlights and to study film from NFL games last season.



Todd Sturdy (left) is set to replace Joel Osborn (right) as the offensive playcaller for Northwest football after Sturdy was hired as the offensive coordinator, following the departure former coordinator Charlie Flohr.

But it was Harlan, Osborn said, that opened the door for his own success in athletics. It was Harlan where he decided football would become his livelihood. It was Harlan where he won three championships between his junior and senior years in each sport he played, bringing home trophies as a shortstop and a quarterback and a point guard on his dad's team.

And it was in Harlan, first, where Osborn learned about the heartbreak of sports, about how to lose and walk in humility.

Throughout Osborn's four years of high school, no team within a four-hour radius had won as many games as the Cyclones had across the three major sports, he said. And no team within a four-hour radius had suffered through as many near-misses, forcing down the realities of heartbreak in high school athletics and moving forward, swallowing the hard-to-swallow.

In some ways, the pain was and is the cost of admittance, opening the gates for something more. There isn't success without sacrifice. There isn't sacrifice without loss. Osborn failed in more gut wrenching playoff games than he won state championships. In heartache and introspection and long offseasons of work, Osborn paid the cost.

Osborn's first three seasons at Northwest were like Harlan all over again. There was misery and heartache packaged together for a third consecutive year, this time amplified by his role as the starting quarterback where he served for two seasons. With a championship loss his junior year, there was the dreaded end to a months-long season, one that came without a parade or a ring or an on-field celebration. There was the start of a long offseason, one he hoped would lead Northwest back to the title game. It was the cost he'd agreed to pay, one that had always been worth it.

Osborn is the only quarterback in the program's history to start in two national championship games. And he's the only quarterback in the program's history to lose them both. He ended his collegiate career with a 7-point loss in a national title game to a team Northwest was favored to beat. He'd paid the cost for four seasons. It had not been worth it.

"The one thing you're gonna find out, that we always tell our kids that you're gonna find out about life is — it's not always gonna go your way," Osborn said. "So are you gonna sit there and pout about it or are you gonna move on and learn from it? And I think if you do that, then there's nothing to be ashamed of."

Osborn moved on without moving anywhere. He stayed in Maryville, where he's been since. He became a graduate assistant and helped coach receivers and a locker room full of his former teammates to a championship in 2009, finding the success that eluded him for four years.

Osborn said he doesn't know if the championship win felt different than it would have as a player. He has no frame of reference for what it feels like as a player. And he hasn't given it much thought, either. He does not dwell. He deals with hardship and defeat with positivity and hustle. Both then and now, his answer to adversity has been to keep working.

"I think sometimes you can become a victim to things that are going on, and they can break you," McCollum said. "With him, that's not something that he's done. . . . Sometimes adversity can kind of be the ticket that you need to accomplish things that are a lot greater."

And perhaps that's why Osborn was at work in his office at 8 a.m. Feb. 21, not trying to outwork anyone other than his own circumstance. With next season's schedule penned on a whiteboard behind his desk, he studied the film of various NFL games. He referenced one-off plays he called from months ago. He read offensive schemes like books, pulling phrases from the 11 assorted X's and O's, crafting play designs based solely on offensive formations.

Books about life and football line a stack of shelves in the corner of his office. There are self-help books by Jon Gordon, a motivational guru. There's the autobiography by legendary coach Bob Knight. There is the memoir from Super Bowl-winning quarterback Drew Brees, "Coming Back Stronger: Unleashing the Hidden Power of Adversity."

At a crossroads in the program where he has spent his whole career, Osborn appears to be doing that, a source of positivity in the wake of his own demotion. He greeted every person he walked by at Lamkin Activity Center Feb. 21, most of them by name. He asked how they were doing. He went out of his way to stop by the custodial office on the outskirts of Bearcat Arena, just to check in.

"They'll take care of you," Osborn said. "If you ever need something, they'll take care of you."

Osborn is charting his path forward by returning to his purpose. He's not hung up on the politics of coaching, on things he can't control. He has been here before. Facing adversity again, he is refusing to be victimized. He is making the best of it, he said.

Osborn is paying the cost. He's sure it will be worth it.







2020 MIAA Men’s Basketball Championship



EMILY NOYES | NW MISSOURIAN

MEN CONTINUED FROM A12

In the last two games of their season, the Bearcats dominated Missouri Western in a 92-69 win over the Griffons Feb. 25 in St. Joseph, Missouri, before earning a gritty 69-61 win over Washburn Feb. 27 at Bearcat Arena.

“You don’t realize how far away second is from first.”

-COACH BEN MCCOLLUM

The pair of wins depicted the best and worst of what Northwest can be. The Bearcats played at an elite level for both halves of the Western matchup and the second half of the game against Washburn, McCollum said. But the first half against Washburn, he said, was troubling. “We can play really well and we can play really bad, is probably what it tells me,” McCollum said. “We can win tough games and we can take ourselves to an elite level if we choose. Hopefully, we choose to do that down there. ... One of those

halves can cost you the season.” Facing a group of reporters at the luncheon, McCollum sat alongside Northwest women’s basketball coach Austin Meyer and reminisced about the darker days of the program he leads. Meyer, who’s in his second season as the women’s coach and just earned his first tournament bid, served as an assistant on McCollum’s staff from

2008-2018. The pair reflected on the early going of McCollum’s tenure, when Northwest went 10-16 in the coach’s second year, when McCollum worried about job security and had more hair on his head. McCollum said he was comforted back then by the faith Meyer had in their process. Meyer said he’s comforted now, leading an 11-17 team, by what he learned then. “In those first two years, we worked really hard,” Meyer said. “And he worked as hard as any-

UP NEXT

NW @ MIAA Tournament March 4-8 Kansas City, Missouri

body. And you knew he cared about every little thing in the program.” McCollum said he’s grateful for the losses back then that stacked up more than he would have liked in his first two seasons.

He retold a version of the same story he’s told at times over the last two seasons, expressing sadness for coaches who finish in third and fourth place early in their careers. “You don’t realize how far away second is from first,” McCollum said. “That distance is shocking compared to second versus seventh. You are so far away from first. There’s so many little things that need to go right for you to get first place.” The distance between Northwest and the rest of the MIAA has been present for much of the last five years. It was evident a season ago when the Bearcats went undefeated. It was evident when the conference awards were announced March 3. McCollum hopes it’s still evident March 8 in Kansas City, when a conference tournament champion is crowned and the win-or-go-home games start for Northwest.

WOMEN CONTINUED FROM A12

“We were confident coming into this game,” Northwest coach Austin Meyer said. “We struggled to start offensively, but we were kinda our old selves defensively and it kept us in the game and allowed us to take the lead when we made that run.” It was the Bearcats’ first game in March since 2014, when they were bounced in the first round of the postseason. Before the win over Central, Northwest hadn’t made the tournament since the 2016-17 season. After losing the last six games of the regular season, the Bearcats weren’t sure if they’d be participating in what the conference calls “MIAA Madness.”

In the aftermath of the win, Haggard’s first triple of the game served as an indicator of the remaining three quarters that she had. She shot 6 for 10 from the field, including 5-for-9 shooting from deep.

At the 4:11 mark of the final quarter, Haggard nailed a three from the corner to give Northwest a 63-55 lead. It was a shot that cemented the junior into the Northwest record books as she passed former Bearcat Kelli Nelson to become the program’s leader in 3-point field goals made (203).

After the game, the junior wasn’t aware she scored 22 points. She wasn’t aware that she had set a new program mark. She wasn’t concerned that she was on the bench when the game tipped off. She was, however, focused on the fact that they survive in the tournament.

“I didn’t have that goal by any means,” Haggard said. “At the end of the day, it doesn’t mean much because we’re here to compete and it’s just an accolade. To me, it is what it is.”

“I just want to add that I’m not shocked at all,” McConkey joked. “She’s coming in and hitting, what? Four threes a game? It’s no big deal.” The Bearcats, Haggard said, were due for an appearance in the tournament. It’s something that nobody on the current roster has experienced in their time at Northwest. The seniors, guards Kendey Eaton and Erika Schlosser, are both in their second year with the program after transferring in.

The junior class, consisting of Haggard, McConkey, and four others, was a part of 13 wins combined in the first two years as a Bearcat. The Bearcats are, of course, one win away from matching that total in the span of one season.

“We’ve been waiting our turn for the last few years,” Haggard said. “Just, finally getting our chance to be here — I truly believe we were placed here for a reason.”

The experience, Meyer said, is good for the program. But, he added, the Bearcats didn’t make the trip to have it be one that is short-lived.

Northwest gets an opportunity to upset another team when the Bearcats square off against the No. 2 seed, Emporia State March 5 in Kansas City, Missouri, at Municipal Auditorium. It’s a matchup in which the Bearcats lost in the only meeting between the two during the regular season.

“I mean, I’m pretty excited about it,” McConkey said. “I know we had a tough battle today and we’re gonna have another one tomorrow so, we gotta get physically and mentally ready for the next game.”

“They’re really good,” Meyer said of Emporia. “They’re the No. 2 seed in the tournament for a reason. ... It’s gonna be a big challenge, just like today was, but our kids will be ready.”

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# Sophomore leading way for Northwest

**GUNNAR MCHENRY**  
Sports Reporter | @NWMSports

Northwest baseball sophomore right fielder Jordan Peck from Winnipeg, Manitoba, has played a key role in the Bearcats' success this season.

“Just playing in the backyard with dad almost every day just made me fall in love with the game,” Peck said. “From that point on, I have just loved everything about the game of baseball and what the game of baseball has done for me.”

“Another thing that made me love the game was just being around my teammates and my best friends,” Peck said. “We are all so close and have great team chemistry, which makes the game so much more fun.”

Posting a .309 batting average and 17 hits with 13 RBIs, Peck is fifth on the team in hits and fourth in runs batted in. Along with his bat, Peck's glove has, in part, played into Northwest's success. To this point in the season, he's posted a fielding percentage of 97.2% and has a career fielding percentage of 95.3%.

In Peck's freshman season, he appeared in 14 games. In those 14 games, seven were starts. In that same campaign, he batted .200 with two doubles, scored 4 runs and tallied 1 RBI.

"I have been hitting pretty good so far this season," Peck said. "I just gotta keep a good positive mindset and keep putting in the work."

Peck didn't realize his love for baseball until he reached high school. It wasn't until, Peck said, he played in the Western Canada Summer Games and the Canada Cup.

## UP NEXT

**NW vs Emporia State**  
March 6-8  
Bearcat Field

Peck went to Collège Sturgeon Heights Colgate in Winnipeg, Canada. “Some people in his community thought he would experience culture shock when he arrived in Maryville. Behind his bat and a connection to the small town in the northwest corner of Missouri, that didn’t happen.”

“My high school coach from back home knew (Northwest coach Darin Loe),” Peck said. “They had coached together in the past. It made my decision a whole lot easier.”

Despite the Bearcats having one win in their last 10 games, and a 6-11 record on the season, Peck is still confident about his team.

"I still believe we are a very good team. We just need to find the right balance between our hitting, pitching and defense," Peck said. "A perfect example was when we were on our trip to Arkadelphia; we played great team baseball. ... We showed what we could be as a team. A winning ball club is exactly what we showed."

Peck is excited for the rest of this year and what the following couple of years have to offer. Bearcats coach Darin Loe is also excited for the present and the future of bearcats baseball and Jordan's future.

"Jordan is hitting very well right now, and that definitely helps us offensively and helps us win ball games," Loe said. "Jordan is a great kid and he has a great work ethic, and we are excited for his future."



MADI GLASS | NW MISSOURIAN

Northwest baseball ended its eight-game losing streak with a win against Northeastern State, 14-4 Saturday Feb. 29, when sophomore outfielder Jordan Peck went 2-for-4 with 3 RBIs and 1 walk.

# Softball rebounds in Springfield after slow start

**JESS GREIMAN**  
Sports Reporter | @NWMSports

After a 2-0 start to the 2020 season was followed by a 1-11 stretch, things were looking pretty bleak for the Bearcat softball team.

Whether it was close losses or blowouts, Northwest couldn't catch a break. That was until the 'Cats transformed into an offensive juggernaut, scoring 40 combined runs, including nine homers, as they went 4-0 Feb. 29-March 1 at the Drury

Invitational in Springfield, Missouri, and improved to 7-11.

"Everybody contributed," Northwest coach Ryan Anderson said. "It wasn't two or three people just hitting home runs; it was players up and down the lineup getting doubles and singles. And, yeah, we had some home runs, but everyone up and down the lineup contributed."

Northwest began the trip with a high-scoring game against Wayne State (5-10). The matchup didn't get off to a particularly encouraging

start for the Bearcats, who found themselves down 4-0 going into the bottom of the third inning. However, the team battled back to make the score 4-3, scoring three runs on outfield singles from freshman second baseman Abby Nolte and sophomore first baseman Alexis Kump.

The game was a back-and-forth offensive battle for its remainder, with Northwest drawing even at ninth apiece in the sixth inning on a fielding error. A scoreless seventh inning sent the game into extra innings, where Wayne State gained a 10-9 advantage heading into the bottom of the eighth inning.

But, with junior Regan Kirby pinch-running at second base, Nolte came through again, recording her third and fourth RBIs of the game as she blasted the game-winning, walk-off home run over the center-field wall, giving the Bearcats an 11-10 win in dramatic fashion.

"We made mistakes and got behind. We tried to fight back and they scored again, but we tried to fight back and eventually tied it up," Anderson said. "We kept fighting and

we got the win, but it really showed everybody that we could still hit and score even when we were down.”

The Bearcats followed that win with a game against the host, Drury (9-7). Similar to the first game, Northwest fell behind early, conceding four runs in the first inning and another in the third inning to go down 5-1. Both teams scored twice in the fifth inning to move the score to 7-3. However, the Bearcats outscored the Panthers 9-0 in the final two innings and defeated Drury by a final score of 12-7.

Specifically, seniors Kaitlyn Weis and Erin Keeney played key roles in the win over Drury, each recording three RBIs. Weis finished with a walk and two hits, one of which was a two-run home run, while Keeney also contributed a walk and two hits.

Northwest began the final day of the invitational with a game against Newman (5-12), during which they put up their third double-digit scoring effort of the trip. This time, however, it would be the Bearcats who got off to the hot start, opening

## UP NEXT

**NW vs Missouri Western**  
1 p.m. & 3 p.m. March 6  
Bearcat Softball Field

the game with an 8-0 lead through the first two and a half innings. The Jets produced four runs and Northwest moved to 3-0 on the road trip, winning the game by an eventual score of 12-4.

Against the Jets, Keeney had a big impact on the Bearcat victory. The senior finished the game with four RBIs courtesy of a three-run home run in the second inning and a solo home run in the sixth.

In their final game of the weekend, the Bearcats took on the similarly-named Southwest Baptist University Bearcats (5-12). Southwest scored the first run of the game in the first inning on a passed ball before Northwest took control for the remainder of the game. Sophomore left fielder Jacee Winn grounded out for a sacrifice in the third inning as freshman center fielder Grace Jeffries scored the Bearcats' first run.

Northwest strung together three more runs in the fifth inning on a two-run homer from sophomore right fielder Olivia Daugherty and a double from Weis. Daugherty knocked home one more run on a single in the seventh inning, giving Northwest a 5-1 victory and closing out the Bearcats' most successful weekend of the season.

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**NWMISSOURINEWS.COM**

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# Track struggles during absence of Austin

**NATHAN ENGLISH**  
Sports Reporter I @ThananEnglish

Raucous cheers, seniors winning in their final conference meet and one major cramp defined Northwest indoor track and field's performance at the MIAA Indoor Track & Field Championships Feb. 28-March 1 in Pittsburg, Kansas.

Conference is different from most track meets in that it is a team competition with point totals assigned to places in events. Points are given to the top 8 finishes in each event with eighth place earning a single point, all the way up to first, which earns 10 points.

The women finished the meet securing fourth with a total of 88 points. The Pittsburg State women won the MIAA title with 137 points. The men placed third with 102 points. Conference champion Missouri Southern posted 142 points.

The men's performance at the meet was mostly characterized by what could have been, opposed to what happened. Sophomore Omar Austin, described by coach Brandon Masters as the team's "lightning rod" and leader on the track, was injured on the second day of the meet after a major quad cramp. Austin tried to power through the cramp in the 200-meter preliminary round and Masters estimated that worsened the injury. The injury forced Austin to trade in his cleats for crutches for the rest of the meet.

"When Omar went down the wind just fell out of our sails," Masters said.

Austin's injury, Masters said, took at least 20 points off the board for the Bearcats and forced them to use an alternate in 4-x-400 meter relay, which Austin normally anchored. The relay team at con-

**UP NEXT**  
**National Championships**  
March 14-15  
Birmingham, Alabama

ference, comprised of freshman Gavyn Monday, junior Caelon Harkley, senior Tyrell Maddox and alternate sophomore Abdelrahim Mahgoub, placed second and posted a time of 3 minutes, 11 seconds and 89 milliseconds, which was the second-fastest time in school history. Austin was a member of the team that ran the fastest time in program history earlier this year with a time of 3:10.96.

The loss of Austin had other teams "smelling blood in the water," Master said, and made it extremely difficult for the Northwest men to come away with a title. The men had a team meeting in the hotel after the second day, in which Austin and Maddox among others, reminded the team they still had a shot.

The men, Masters said, would need big performances from many individuals to keep them on the podium. Senior Karim Achengli answered the call with a team-high 18 points, winning the 5,000-meter run with a time of 14:19.85 and placing second in the 3,000-meter run with an 8:20.8.

"I just had this feeling it was gonna be great," Masters said about Achengli's performance. "I had never seen him move that fast."

Anchengli's 5,000-meter heroics came shortly after Austin's injury, which provided a jolt to the team's morale in a time where the energy was rather anemic.

"Senior, a guy who's been here, put the team on his back and said 'Let's go,'" Masters said.

FULL STORY ONLINE:  
**NWMISSOURINEWS.COM**



RACHEL ADAMSON | NW MISSOURIAN  
Senior sprinter Tyrell Maddox took first in the 800-meter dash at the MIAA Indoor Track and Field Championships March 1 and helped Northwest's 4-x-400-meter relay team to a second place finish with a time of 3:11.89.



RACHEL ADAMSON | NW MISSOURIAN  
Senior Tate Oglesby's high school basketball career ended at Cameron High School Feb. 29 as Maryville boys basketball lost 55-44 to Central in the Class 3 District 16 Championship matchup.

## Maryville boys fall in districts for first time since 2015 tournament

**CALVIN SILVERS**  
Sports Reporter I @CalvinSilvers

It was a bittersweet moment for the Maryville boys basketball team as it walked into the gymnasium at Cameron High School Feb. 29 to face the No. 1 seed Central (Kansas City).

This was the fifth straight visit to the Class 3 District 16 Championship game for the Spoofhounds, with a trip to sectionals on the line. The four seasons prior, Maryville walked away with a championship plaque. That wouldn't be the case this time around.

Maryville kept the pressure under control early, keeping the game tied at 11. However, Central found its groove and propelled itself ahead, going on a 12-0 run.

The loss of junior forward Ben Walker due to an early injury and senior guard Tate Oglesby being in foul trouble for a majority of the game kept Maryville from utilizing its usual offensive production and resulted in a 55-44 loss.

As time ticked away on the clock, and the season, Oglesby was flooded with emotions.

"The memories from my first day walking to practice to the last time stepping on the court for our

high school, I mean they just started to flow," Oglesby said. "You could tell it was emotional on the bench. It shows that we were bought in and the season means more than wins and losses. It shows how close we are."

As coach Matt Stoecklein entered the locker room after the game and thanked his players, he told them this wasn't something to be disappointed in.

"I told them, 'Don't hang your head.' From where we started at 2-7 to where we finished at 15-11 with the schedule and inexperience we had, I was still impressed with them," Matt Stoecklein said. "We hung tight with a Central team, and we still made it a game."

The Spoofhounds did see themselves in trouble when the official season began Dec. 2, 2019. While Maryville won its first game against Hogan Prep Academy Charter, it lost the next five before eventually picking up a second win. After that second win, Maryville went 13-6.

"What impressed me was this team at 2-7 could've easily said they weren't going to try to get better," Matt Stoecklein said. "They fought and battled and listened to what we were saying to try and get better and turned the

season around."

Every season a set of players hang up their shoes as their high school careers come to a close. Freshman guard Caden Stoecklein said he will miss having his senior friends and teammates on the court.

"Losing the seniors is going to hurt for next year," Caden Stoecklein said. "They were good leaders. They knew what they were doing out there; they helped us with plays and practicing in general. They worked really hard and came to practice every day looking to get better."

Oglesby knew he meant a lot to his teammates and knew he wouldn't have accomplished what he did without them, he said. Oglesby and the other seniors Tylan Perry and Kelby Derr individually hugged and thanked each teammate in the locker room.

"We thanked them for being who they were this year and putting their time in like we did," Oglesby said. "Just to know that was the last time I'd do that in a high school locker room was a big thing."

The seniors, Matt Stoecklein said, were special to him.

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Junior guard Mallory McConkey went 7-for-7 from the free throw line in Northwest women’s basketball’s 71-67 win over Central Oklahoma March 4 at Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City, Missouri. McConkey hit two clutch free throws with 19 seconds left in the contest to ice Northwest’s first win in the tournament since the 2012-13 season.

# Bearcats earn first-round upset win

**JON WALKER**  
Sports Editor | @ByJonWalker

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Northwest women’s basketball forward Mallory McConkey placed her left foot, followed by her right, on the free throw line at the north basket March 4 in Municipal Auditorium.

The junior had been at the charity stripe 216 times in her collegiate career before that moment, 70 of those during the 2019-20 season, none of them carried the significance of the pair that were ahead.

With 19 seconds left, No. 10-seeded Northwest led the No. 7 seed, Central Oklahoma, by a single point in the first round of the MIAA Tournament.

McConkey nailed both free throws for the Bearcats (12-17), ones that were the dagger to the heart of the Bronchos (18-10) as Northwest completed the upset, 71-67.

“It’s awesome to be able to come to the tournament,” McConkey said. “None of us were wanting to come in just to get in the tournament and then lose our first game. So I mean, we’re planning on stay-



**UP NEXT**

**NW @ MIAA Tournament**  
March 4-8  
Kansas City, Missouri

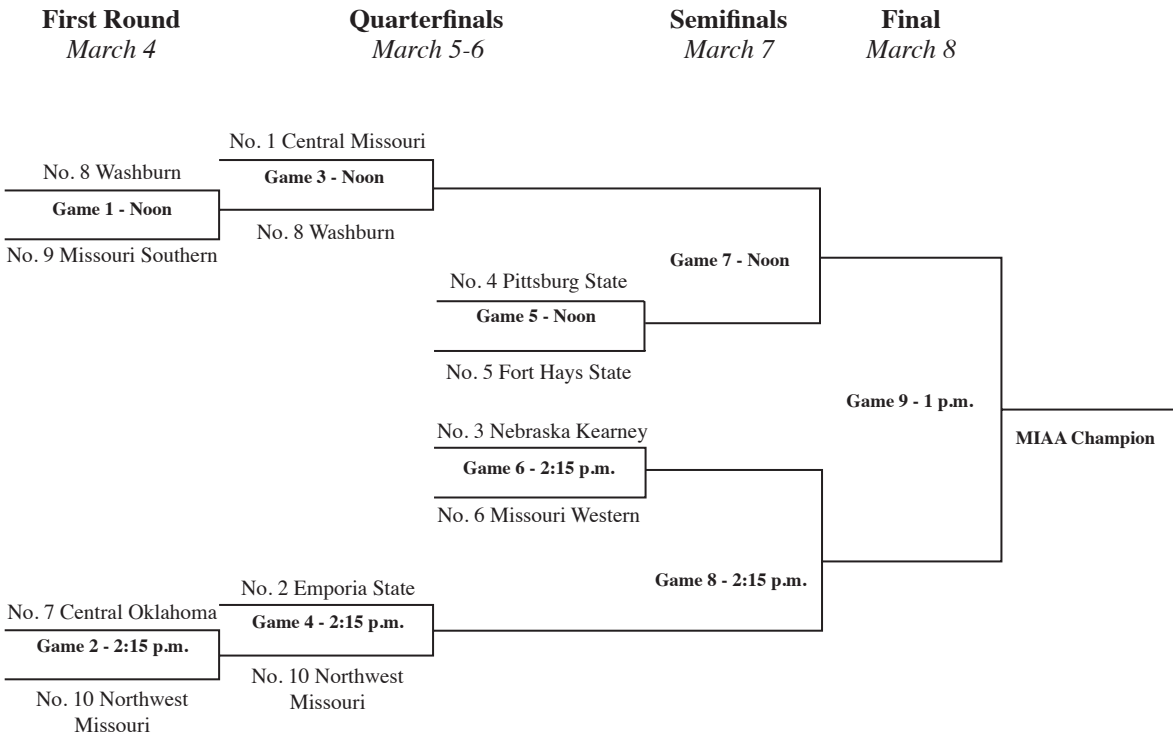
ing here for a while.”

That moment was a culmination of every moment prior, in some ways, serving as a depiction of a game in which both teams led by double-digits at one point or another. For Northwest, the win was the first of its kind since the 2012-13 season, the last time the Bearcats won a game in the conference tournament.

Northwest was led by sophomore guard Jaelyn Haggard, who scored a game-high and new season-high 22 points. With 2:26 left in the first quarter, the Bearcats trailed 18-7. Haggard nailed a 3-pointer nearly 40 seconds later, one that set Northwest on an 18-0 run that carried over into the second quarter to give the Bearcats a 25-18 lead with 7:45 left in the first half.

SEE WOMEN | A9

## 2020 MIAA Women’s Basketball Championship



# Men prepare for test amid success

**ANDREW WEGLEY**  
Managing Editor | @andrewwegley

Regardless of how Northwest men’s basketball plays in its trip to the MIAA Tournament March 5-8 at Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City, Missouri, the Bearcats will likely host the NCAA’s Central Region Tournament at Bearcat Arena March 14-17.

The No. 1 Bearcats (28-1, 18-1 MIAA) are the top-ranked team in the conference, region and country. They’ll be the No. 1 seed heading into the first round of the tournament, where they will match up with the winner of the Central Oklahoma-Lincoln matchup March 5. They’re seeking their fifth consecutive conference tournament victory.

And perhaps that’s what bothers coach Ben McCollum. More than once during his session with reporters at the Northwest Athletics media luncheon March 3, the coach referenced a podcast he’d listened to and a Bible verse he’d read, a nod to both Virginia basketball coach Tony Bennett and Proverbs 27:21.

“Praise is the test of man,” McCollum said.

Northwest isn’t short on praise heading into the conference tournament. The Bearcats won their seventh consecutive regular-season conference title Feb. 20. They’ve won 66 of their last 67 games. They’ve been ranked inside the top five nationally for the entirety of the last two seasons.

Northwest fared better than any



Sophomore guard Trevor Hudgins was named the MIAA Player of the Year March 3 after following up his Freshman of the Year campaign with an average of 19.6 points per game this season., shooting 51.8% from the field.

other team in the MIAA when conference awards were announced March 3, with sophomore guard Trevor Hudgins claiming the MIAA Player of the Year Award, edging out teammate and junior forward Ryan Hawkins, who settled for the conference’s Defensive Player of the Year Award for the second year in a row. And there is McCollum, who won his sixth MIAA Coach of the Year award, marking his second win in a row and his fifth in the last six years.

McCollum, though, said he prefers his back against the wall. He’s

not convinced Northwest’s security atop the NCAA Central Region rankings will benefit his team in its trip to Kansas City.

“If we were result-focused, yes,” McCollum said. “But we’re process-focused, so no. It does nothing for us.”

“I don’t know, it’s probably a disadvantage more than an advantage,” McCollum said. “I guess some of those teams will play tight, but I don’t know, they’re playing with house money. If they win, there you go. ... It’s easier to motivate yourself through adversity. It’s very difficult to motivate yourself through a lot of success, a lot of it.”

Entering the conference tournament, McCollum and company are once again trying to chart their way through the win-or-go-home gantlet without a reason to, trying to sustain the success that, at times, seems unsustainable.

A season ago, en route to a 38-0 record and an NCAA Division II National Championship win, the Bearcats nearly fell in the first round of the MIAA tournament to

Emporia State, squeaking past the Hornets with an 82-79 win for their 30th win in a row.

The near-loss represents a reality McCollum said he hopes his team has grasped by now, that any team can beat Northwest on any given afternoon, particularly in the early stages of a win-or-go-home tournament. First-round games, McCollum said, bring a renewed sense of energy that can surprise even him at times. Northwest needs to be at its best, he said.

## Men to host NCAA Division II Central Region Tournament

The Northwest men’s basketball team is projected to host the NCAA Division II Central Region Tournament, per the NCAA’s regional rankings released Feb. 23.

The tournament will take place March 14-17 in Bearcat Arena. The times and dates for the first round matchups will be determined March 8, when the NCAA Selection Committee chooses the 64 teams that make up the field for the national tournament.

The Bearcats posted a record of 28-1 during the regular season. The second-best team in the region holds a record of 23-7. If the projections hold true, it will mark the fourth consecutive season that Maryville would serve as the host site for the regional portion of the tournament.

The winner of the region advances to the Elite Eight March 26-28 in Evansville, Indiana.

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